

**What is claimed is:**

1. An access assembly for a container, comprising;

an access member, having a first side and a second side, said access member pivotally mounted in an opening in said container, whereby said access member pivots from a first open position to a second closed position;

said first access member side including means for engagement of the access member by a user;

said second access member side including means for counterbalancing the combined weight of said access member and said user engagement means;

whereby said access member automatically returns to the closed position after being pivoted to the open position.

2. An access assembly as in Claim 1, wherein said user engagement means is a handle.

3. An access assembly as in Claim 1, wherein said counterbalancing means is a counterweight.

4. An access assembly for a container, comprising;

an access member, having a first side and a second side, said access member pivotally mounted in an opening in said container, whereby said access member pivots from a first open position to a second closed position;

said first access member side including a handle for engagement of the access member by a user;

said second access member side including a counterweight for counterbalancing the combined weight of said access member and said handle;

whereby said access member automatically returns to the closed position after being pivoted to the open position.

5. An access assembly for a container as in Claim 4, wherein;

said handle is centered on said first access member side;

said counterweight is centered on said second access member side;

said handle and said counterweight being positioned relative to each other in such manner as to cause said access member to pivot unaided from the open position to the closed position upon disengagement from the handle by a user.

6. An access assembly for a container, comprising;

an access member, having a first side and a second side, said access member pivotally mounted in an opening in said container, whereby said access member pivots from a first open position to a second closed position;

said first access member side including a handle for engagement of the access member by a user; said handle being centered on said first access member side;

said second access member side including a counterweight centered on said second access member side for counterbalancing the combined weight of said access member and said handle;

said handle and said counterweight being positioned relative to each other in such manner as to cause said access member to pivot unaided from the open position to the closed position upon disengagement from the handle by a user.